

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2009

The Honorable John Murtha
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
H-149, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murtha and Ranking Member Young,

We take great pride that the United States military is the best trained fighting force in the world. However, as a result of this training, over millions of acres of former military ranges are contaminated with unexploded ordnance (UXO), discarded military munitions, and munitions constituents.

Congress established the Defense Environmental Restoration Program-Formerly Used Defense Site Program (DERP-FUDS) in 1986 with the mission to protect our natural resources and the health and safety of present and future generations by removing hazardous material from the environment. The FUDS Program is responsible for environmental restoration of all properties that were formerly owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the United States and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense.

Nationwide, almost 10,000 FUDS properties have been reviewed for program eligibility and evidence of Department of Defense contamination. Over 2,600 of these properties have been determined to require environmental cleanup action at an estimated cost of over \$18 billion. At current levels of funding, this conservatively puts remediation completion over five decades away.

A Department of Defense that cleans up after itself and returns safe, unused lands to communities should be a priority. We respectfully request that the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Authorization bill include \$100 million over Fiscal Year 2009 for the Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites account for unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions, and munitions constituent remediation.

Investing in cleanup and land transfer now reduces future remediation costs, protects our communities, employs skilled technicians, and lays the foundation

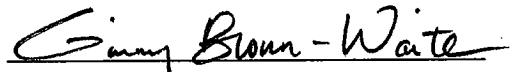
for further economic growth as transferred land returns to productive use as recreational, commercial, or residential developments.

We support responsible stewardship and investment as a priority for this Congress, the budget process, and the Administration. Thank you for your continued attention to this critical matter. We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to working with you in the upcoming appropriations cycle.

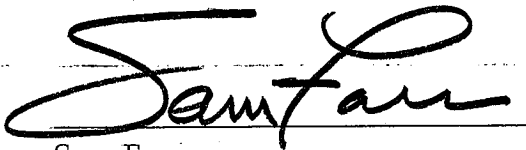
Sincerely,



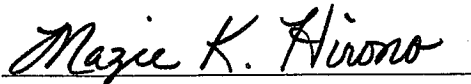
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Ginny Brown-Waite
Member of Congress



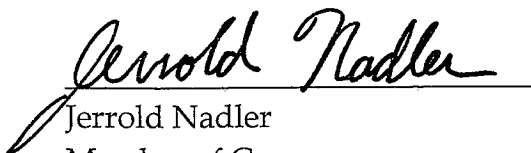
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Mazie Hirono
Member of Congress



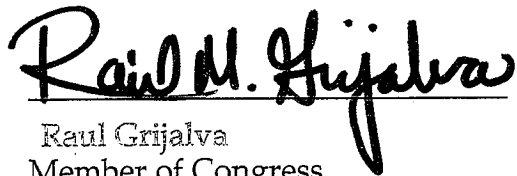
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

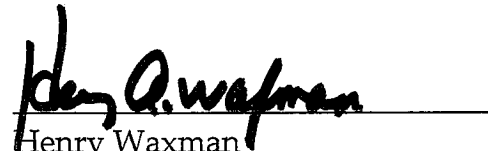


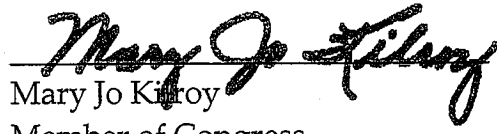
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

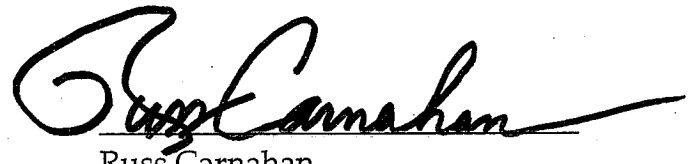


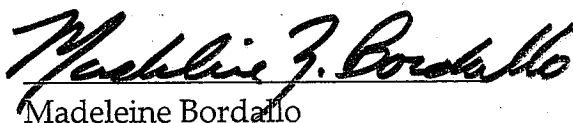
Pedro Pierluisi
Member of Congress

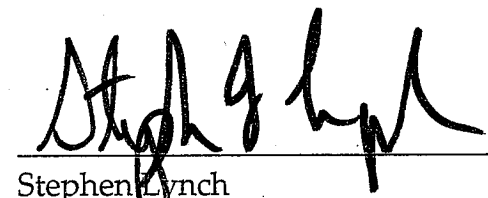

Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress


Henry Waxman
Member of Congress


Mary Jo Kilroy
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Stephen Lynch
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